

## **REMARKS**

New claims 13-18 are added. New claims 13-18 are supported by the originally-filed application at, for example, Figs. 7A-7B. Furthermore, Figs. 7A-7B represent the species selected for prosecution in response to a previously presented restriction requirement by the Office.

Claims 6-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 5, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Boecking (U.S. Patent No. 6,776,390).

Independent claim 1 recites wherein the valve body, the displacement enlarging mechanism and the piezoelectric element are **mechanically connected to one another**. Boecking fails to teach a *displacement enlarging mechanism* that is **mechanically connected** to either of a *valve body and a piezoelectric element* as positively recited by claim 1. First, Boecking teaches a displacement enlarging mechanism (hereinafter “lever 10” of Boecking as stated by Examiner) that is not mechanically connected to piezoelectric actuator 2 (Fig. 1; col, Ins. 35-40). In fact, Boecking specifically teaches lever 10 does not even contact any structure of the piezoelectric actuator 2 when piezoelectric actuator 2 is turned off (“in the position of repose”) wherein an “air gap” exists between lever 10 and leg 8 (col. 3, Ins. 35-40; Fig. 1).

Second, Boecking teaches “lever 10” is not mechanically connected to the valve body (hereinafter “piston 15” of Boecking as stated by Examiner) (see Fig. 1). In fact, Boecking specifically teaches that “lever 10 is prestressed by the

compression spring 14” to “act[] on the piston 15” (col. 3, Ins. 39-49). That is, lever 10 only contacts piston 15, but without any mechanical connection. Accordingly, Boecking fails to teach a lever 10 (displacement enlarging mechanism) mechanically connected to piezoelectric actuator 2, and Boecking fails to teach a lever 10 (displacement enlarging mechanism) mechanically connected to piston 15 (valve body). Therefore, Boecking fails to teach or suggest wherein the *valve body, the displacement enlarging mechanism and the piezoelectric element* are **mechanically connected to one another** as positively recited by claim 1. Since Boecking fails to teach or suggest a positively recited limitation of claim 1, claim 1 is allowable.

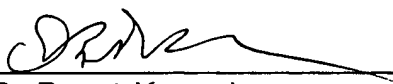
Further regarding the rejection against claim 1, claim 1 recites the operation to close the valve body is performed in accordance with resetting force of the piezoelectric element when the voltage applying to the piezoelectric element is stopped. That is, when the voltage of the piezoelectric element is stopped, the resetting force of the piezoelectric element moves the valve body to close the valve. However, Boecking teaches that “[w]hen the piezoelectric actuator 2 is turned off...the piston 15 is pressed against the seat 17 again **by the force of the spring 16** (col. 4, Ins. 10-15) (emphasis added). That is, spring 16 of Boecking moves the valve body (piston 15) to close the valve, and not the piezoelectric element as positively recited by claim 1. Consequently, Boecking fails to teach or suggest “the operation to close the valve body is performed in accordance with resetting force of the piezoelectric element when the voltage applying to the piezoelectric element is stopped” as positively recited by claim 1. Since Boecking fails to teach or suggest a positively recited limitation of claim 1, claim 1 is allowable, for this additional reason.

Claims 5-9 and 13-18 depend from allowable independent claim 1, and therefore, claims 5-9 and 13-18 are allowable.

This application is now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview prior to issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

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